1 **CLAIMS**

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3 WE CLAIM:

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5 1. A method for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and

6 sellers of investment contracts, comprising:

7 defining an import specification identifying database format

8 characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database;

9 mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second

10 database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second

11 database are predefined data fields;

12 importing the investment plan information into the predefined data

13 fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import

14 map;

15 transferring the investment plan information to a central database

16 accessible by the investment contract sellers authorized by the investment contract

17 buyers to receive the investment plan information;

18 transferring the investment plan information from the central database

19 to the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation by the authorized

20 investment contract sellers; and

21 creating a proposed investment contract from the investment plan

22 information received via the central database.

23

24 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising transferring a seller

25 authorization code identifying the investment contract sellers who are to be

26 authorized by the investment contract buyers.

27

28 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising creating particular database

29 folders for each potential one of the investment contract sellers, and allowing the

1 investment contract sellers corresponding to the authorization code to receive the

2 investment plan information from their respective database folders.

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4   4.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising transmitting the proposed

5 investment contract to the investment contract seller who transferred the investment

6 plan information.

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8   5.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising notifying the investment

9 contract sellers of their respective authorizations to receive the investment plan

10 information from the central database.

11

12   6.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

13   defining an export specification identifying database format

14 characteristics of an export file;

15   mapping data fields from the investment plan information received by

16 the investment contract sellers to a third database to create a data export map; and

17   exporting the investment plan information received by the investment

18 contract sellers to the data fields of the export file according to the export

19 specification and data export map.

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21   7.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising transferring system data

22 tables to the central database accessible by a central site administrator and

23 inaccessible to the investment contract sellers.

24

25   8.   A transaction processing system for facilitating financial transactions

26 between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, comprising:

27   (a) a central database accessible by the investment contract buyers and the

28 investment contract sellers;

29   (b) at least one computing device having storage, and a user interface to

30 interface to the computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a

31 display and means for entering data, and wherein the computing device comprises:

1   (1) import definition means for defining an import specification

2   identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information

3   stored in a first database accessible by the computing device;

4   (2) data mapping means for mapping data fields from the first database

5   to data fields in a second database accessible by the computing device to

6   create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are

7   predefined data fields;

8   (3) data importation means for importing the investment plan

9   information into the predefined data fields of the second database according

10 to the import specification and data import map;

11   (4) first data transfer means for transferring the investment plan

12 information to the central database;

13   (5) seller identification means for identifying the investment contract

14 sellers who are authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the

15 investment plan information; and

16 (c) wherein the central database comprises means for releasing the

17 investment plan information to only the investment contract sellers identified by the

18 investment contract buyers as authorized to receive the investment plan information.

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20   9.   The transaction processing system as in Claim 8, further comprising a

21 second computing device having a storage, and a user interface to interface to the

22 second computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a display and

23 means for entering data, and wherein the second computing device comprises:

24   second data transfer means for transferring the investment plan information

25 from the central database to the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation

26 by the authorized investment contract sellers and upon release of the investment

27 plan information; and

28   means for viewing the investment plan information received via the central

29 database by the investment contract sellers.

30

1   10.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions

2 for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment

3 contracts, the computer-executable instructions performing steps comprising:

4   defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of

5 investment plan information stored in a first database;

6   mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second

7 database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second

8 database are predefined data fields;

9   importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the

10 second database according to the import specification and data import map;

11   designating the investment contract sellers who are authorized by the

12 investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information;

13   transferring the investment plan information to a central database; and

14   releasing the investment plan information to the investment contract sellers

15 identified by the investment contract buyers as being authorized to receive the

16 investment plan information.

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